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Message Text

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12
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 OPIC-12 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /052 W
---------- 020490
R 211030Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USDOC WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 9613

UNCLAS RABAT 3350

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, MO
SUBJECT: DISPUTE INVOLVING STOCKS OF AMERICAN-MADE CIGARETTES
HELD IN MOROCCO

FOLLOWING MSG IT IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

DE RUFJMR #3157 1911300
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 101220Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO RUESBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1343
RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 135
INFO ZEN/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA 1472

UNCLAS RABA 3157

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BDIS, MO
SUBJECT: DISPUTE INVOLVING STOCKS OF AMERICAN-MADE CIGARETTES
HELD IN MOROCCO

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COMMERCIAL CABLES FROM LORILLARD
INTERNATIONAL (KENT CIGARETTES) AND R.J. REYNOLDS REGIONAL
OFFICES IN BEIRUT AND GENEVA RESPECTIVELY ASKING OUR INTERVENTION
TO RELEASE CIGARETTE STOCKS BEING HELD UNDER COURT ORDER IN
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SEALED WAREHOUSES IN MOROCCO. LORILLARD POINTS OUT THAT

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STOCKS LIKELY DETERIORATE SHORTLY UNLESS SOMETHING DONE.

2. PLEASE INFORM COMPANIES THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MOHAMMED BENNANI, PRESIDENT OF MOROCCAN FIRM SOCIETE MAROCAINE POUR LE COMMERCE EXTERIEUR (SOMACEX) WHICH IS MOROCCAN AGENT FOR DUTY-FREE CIGARETTE SALES. SOMACEX SUPPLIED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANY, LTD. OF GIBRALTAR WHICH BUYS GOODS ON CONSIGNMENT FROM AMERICAN AND OTHER CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS. BENNANI
INFORMS US THAT CIGARETTE STOCKS ARE SEALED DUE TO LEGAL COMPLAINT BY GOM BOBACCO MARKETING ORGANIZATION, REGIE DES TABACS; REGIE, WHICH RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL TRAFFIC AND SALE TOBACCO PRODUCTS, CHARGES THAT STOCKS ARE CONTRABAND.

3. BENNANI SAYS HE HAS APPEALED PERSONALLY TO PRIME MINISTER AND FINANCE AND COMMERCE MINISTERS TO STIMULATE QUICK COURT DECISION WHICH HE CONFIDENT WILL BE DISMISSAL OF CHARGE. WE SHALL DISUSS PROBLEM WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SEE IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE TO HASTEN JUDICIAL PROCEDURES.ROCKWELL

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
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To: STATE
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